

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

February 2014

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Inventory Update Project – In my January report, I stated that at the end of January, we had received approximately 700 returns out of 3,000 mailings and that I had conducted more than 20 on site reviews. At the end of February, we have received almost 1,000 forms and I have visited 80 properties. The submissions keep flowing in and I still have on site visits scheduled. Next month I will report on the adjustments that have been made as a result of the data changes made to the records. I intend to send out notices to those home owners who will see an increase of more than \$5,000 on their assessment

Summit Natural Gas – The Kennebec Valley assessors will be sending a written request to SUMMIT requesting detailed information and circumstances regarding the pipes, stations and distribution lines. Once we receive the data, we intend to meet again and collaborate on valuation and depreciation to be applied consistently.

2013/2014 Abatement Request – the deadline for written abatement requests was February 20th. I received one request on that date, from Brookfield Power who owns and operates the Hydro Kennebec facility on the Kennebec River. No action has been taken at this time.

IAAO State Chapter – the Chapter met on Friday, the 28th, at the Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. Geoff Herman from MMA spoke regarding legislative bills and status. Rebecca Warren Seel, an attorney with MMA Legal, then spoke about the current law court decision on Hebron Academy, which operates as a literary and scientific organization. Hebron won their case on a building that was rented out to local sports groups and assessed by the municipality. The courts found that it should have been exempt.

In the afternoon, we heard from Dave Ledew of Maine Revenue Services regarding the BETE (Business Equipment Tax Exemption) and its transformation in the interpretation of what is exempt and what is not. Wrapping up the afternoon was a panel discussion with me and 3 other assessors – speaking on doing more with less, how we manage the administrative duties in a given year and finally, I presented my “inventory update” project as a means to avoid a future town wide and expensive revaluation.

Personal Property Mailing – the annual mailing will post within the first two weeks of March. This mailing is the request for an itemized list from all businesses operating in Winslow. Deadline for submissions is May 1st.